

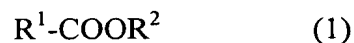
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

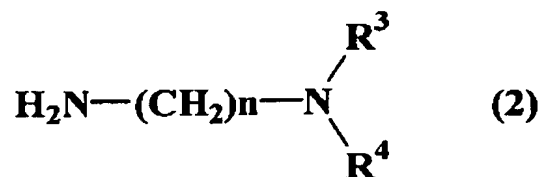
LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1 - 5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) A production process for carboxylic amide, characterized by reacting higher fatty acid or an ester thereof represented by the following Formula (1) with diamine represented by the following Formula (2) under the presence of 0.001 to 0.1 mass % of an organic phosphonic acid compound based on the whole amount of the higher fatty acid or the ester thereof described above:



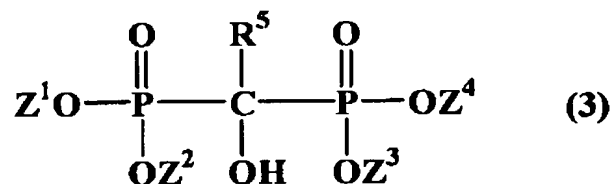
in Formula (1) described above, R^1 represents a linear or branched alkyl group, an alkenyl group or a hydroxyalkyl group having 5 to 23 carbon atoms, and R^2 represents a hydrogen atom, a linear or branched alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms or a residue obtained by removing one acyloxy group from glyceride;



in Formula (2) described above, R^3 and R^4 represent an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms and may be the same or different, and n represents a number of 2 to 4.

7. (Canceled)

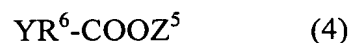
8. (Previously Presented) The production process for carboxylic amide as described in claim 6, wherein the organic phosphonic acid compound is diposphonic acid or a salt thereof having a structure represented by the following Formula (3):



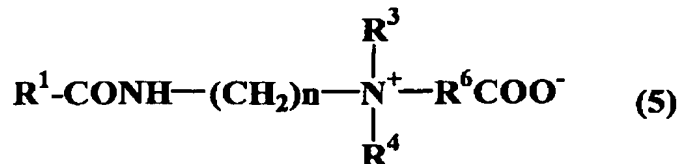
in Formula (3) described above, R⁵ represents a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group having 1 to 3 carbon atoms, and Z¹, Z², Z³ and Z⁴ each represent independently a hydrogen atom or an alkaline metal atom.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) A production process for betaine, characterized by producing betaine represented by the following Formula (5) by reacting the carboxylic amide compound obtained by the production process as described in claim 6 with monohaloalkylcarboxylic acid or a salt thereof represented by the following Formula (4):



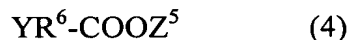
in Formula (4) described above, Y represents a halogen atom; R⁶ represents a linear or branched alkylene group having 1 to 3 carbon atoms; and Z⁵ represents a hydrogen atom or an alkaline metal atom;



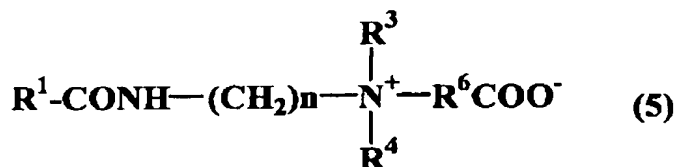
in Formula (5) described above, R^1 , R^3 , R^4 , R^6 and n are the same as described above.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) A production process for betaine, characterized by producing betaine represented by the following Formula (5) by reacting the carboxylic amide compound obtained by the production process as described in claim 8 with monohaloalkylcarboxylic acid or a salt thereof represented by the following Formula (4):



in Formula (4) described above, Y represents a halogen atom; R^6 represents a linear or branched alkylene group having 1 to 3 carbon atoms; and Z^5 represents a hydrogen atom or an alkaline metal atom;



in Formula (5) described above, R^1 , R^3 , R^4 , R^6 and n are the same as described above.

13. (Canceled)

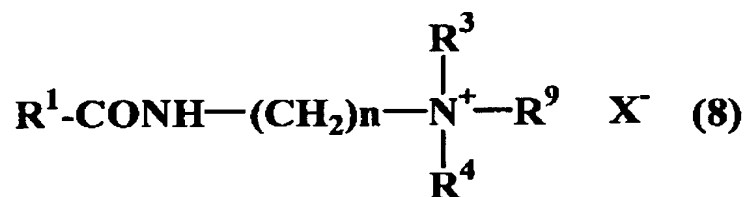
14. (Previously Presented) A production process for a quaternary ammonium salt, characterized by producing a quaternary ammonium salt represented by the following Formula (8) by reacting the carboxylic amide compound obtained by the production process as described in claim 6 with halogenated alkyl represented by the following Formula (6) or dialkylsulfate represented by the following Formula (7):



in Formula (6) described above, Y represents a halogen atom, and R^7 represents an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms;



in Formula (7) described above, R^8 represents an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms;



in Formula (8) described above, R^1 , R^3 , R^4 and n represent the same meanings as described above; R^9 represents R^7 or R^8 ; and X represents Y or R^8SO_4 .

15. (Canceled)

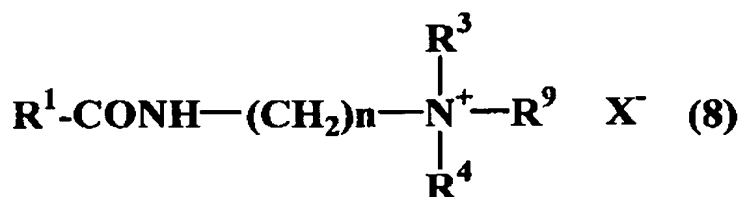
16. (Previously Presented) A production process for a quaternary ammonium salt, characterized by producing a quaternary ammonium salt represented by the following Formula (8) by reacting the carboxylic amide compound obtained by the production process as described in claim 8 with halogenated alkyl represented by the following Formula (6) or dialkylsulfate represented by the following Formula (7):



in Formula (6) described above, Y represents a halogen atom, and R^7 represents an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms;



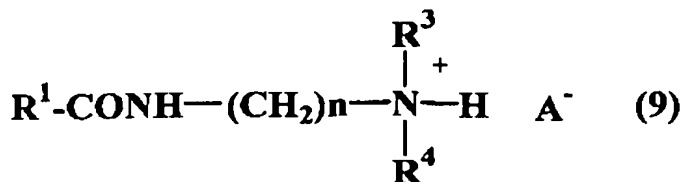
in Formula (7) described above, R^8 represents an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms;



in Formula (8) described above, R^1 , R^3 , R^4 and n represent the same meanings as described above; R^9 represents R^7 or R^8 ; and X represents Y or R^8SO_4 .

17. (Canceled)

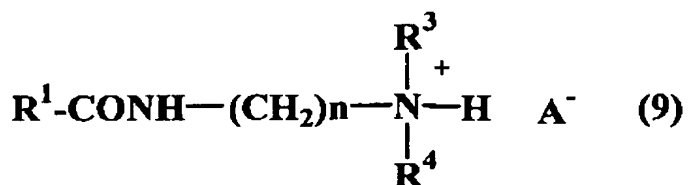
18. (Previously Presented) A production process for an amine salt, characterized by producing an amine salt represented by the following Formula (9) by neutralizing the carboxylic amide compound obtained by the production process as described in claim 6 with at least one neutralizing agent selected from organic acids, inorganic acids and acidic amino acids:



in Formula (9) described above, R^1 , R^3 , R^4 and n represent the same meanings as described above, and A represents organic acid, inorganic acid or acidic amino acid.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously Presented) A production process for an amine salt, characterized by producing an amine salt represented by the following Formula (9) by neutralizing the carboxylic amide compound obtained by the production process as described in claim 8 with at least one neutralizing agent selected from organic acids, inorganic acids and acidic amino acids:



in Formula (9) described above, R^1 , R^3 , R^4 and n represent the same meanings as described above, and A represents organic acid, inorganic acid or acidic amino acid.

21. (Canceled)